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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that John Maurice Henoud, age 52, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was sentenced today in United States District Court in Norfolk, to 360 months incarceration, and ordered to pay \$358,221.18 in restitution. In May of 2004 a jury convicted Henoud of conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud, credit card fraud, and money laundering in connection with his charity fraud scam.

The case arose from the operation of a fraudulent sports program publication business known as Just Sports Publications and a fraudulent charity known as the "Youth at Risk Foundation," both of which were operated by Henoud. From 1997 through 2004, Just Sports Publications sold advertising in sports programs by falsely representing that the funds raised from the advertising would benefit certain schools.

Henoud and his co-conspirators also solicited funds for the Youth at Risk Foundation, an organization that purported to run programs to help troubled youth. In reality, the defendants converted these funds to their own use. Youth at Risk Foundation was also used as a platform for other fraudulent activities, such as a non-existent scholarship program, and a fraudulent September 11 relief fund, for which Henoud raised money by falsely claiming a familial relationship with a man killed on one of the flights that impacted with the World Trade Center.

Henoud and his co-conspirators collected money from hundreds of businesses throughout Virginia and elsewhere. Numerous checks and cash in relatively small amounts were collected in order to minimize face-to-face contact with the victim-businesses and schools. They kept minimal records and utilized a Suffolk pawn shop to launder their proceeds by cashing collection checks there.

Three co-conspirators pled guilty to fraud or money laundering charges in connection with this matter and were sentenced as follows: Russell D. Williford was sentenced to 41 months of incarceration and ordered to pay \$350,404.40 in restitution; Douglas Harold Decker, was sentenced to five years of probation and ordered to pay \$350,404.40 in restitution; and Matthew John Russo III, who was sentenced to five years of probation ordered to pay \$350,404.40 in restitution. Three other individuals, Sharon Kay Moore, Ronald Clark Morrison and Ralph Collins, who were also found guilty by jury trial, are scheduled to be sentenced the end of this month.

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Mr. McNulty said: “Mr. Henoud’s punishment is well deserved. He exploited the generosity of the Hampton Roads community for his own greed-filled purposes.”

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorneys Michael C. Moore and Joseph E. DePadilla prosecuted the case.

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